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SAPC-7351
Copy 3 of 4.

26 June 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR : Project Director
SUBJECT : Proposed Attempt to Establish
World's Altitude Record

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1. During [] visit to Headquarters he mentioned the capability we have to establish, with practically no effort, a world's altitude record with our aircraft. He said that NACA should be able to give us appropriate instruments by which such a record could be verified and secrecy maintained until some future date when it could be publicly released.

2. On the same day, [] visited me prior to departing for Hartford and []. He also stated that a good deal of interest could be developed at [] if we would make a flight to establish a world record. He said that he thought we could possibly run the -31 engine for 20 minutes at over-temperature to gain several thousand feet stabilized altitude above what we had been able to achieve. I told him I thought this was unnecessary since with normal tailpipe temperature and operating conditions we could establish a world altitude record that would take some time to beat.

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3. If you approve this being done, I will take the following action:

a. Have [] contact NACA to see if they have appropriate instrumentation and will lend it to us to make an altitude record run.

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b. If NACA has the equipment and will lend it to us, I will set up a mission at [] on a non-interference basis with regard to training and flight testing to make one altitude run with appropriate instrumentation to establish a world's altitude record.

c. I will have [] establish some kind of system whereby the pilot chosen to make the run would be chosen by a raffle or some other objective system where no partiality could be shown.

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d. After the record is established the accomplishment would be held classified within NACA and witting Air Force circles until some future releasable date.

SIGNED

J. A. GIBBS
Deputy Project Director

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Cy 1 - RMB
2 - Ops
3 - JAG ✓
4 - Adm/Sec